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Message Text

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10
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01 /080 W
---------- 121644
R 210700Z MAY 75
FM AMCONSUL IZMIR
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1352
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL ADANA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, EWWT, GR, TU
REF: IZMIR 102, ATHENS 3591, 3688
SUBJECT: FERRYBOAT SERVICE BETWEEN TURKEY AND GREEK ISLANDS
1. TURKISH PRESS MAY 17 CARRIED REPORT THAT ON MAY 16 KUSADASI-
SAMOS FERRY SERVICE HAD BEEN SUSPENDED INDEFINITELY ON THE
INITIATIVE OF SAMOS HARBORMASTER. REASON FOR SUSPENSION NOT CLEAR.
SOME PRESS ACCOUNTS PREDICTABLY ATTRIBUTE ACTION TO DESIRE BY
GREEKS TO DESTROY TURKISH TOURISM INDUSTRY. ANOTHER, AND PERHAPS
MORE LIKELY, EXPLANATION IS THAT GIVEN THE IZMIR FERRY BOAT AGENT

PAGE 2 RUFLAEA5982 C O N F I D E N T I A L
WHEN HE TELEPHONED THE SAMOS HARBORMASTER. ACCORDING TO THE
ACCOUNT, THE REGULAR HARBORMASTER IS AWAY AND THE ACTING HARBORMASTER
,
CONCERNED THAT HE DID NOT HAVE WRITTEN AUTHORITY FROM ATHENS TO PERMI
T
TURKISH BOATS TO CALL AT SAMOS, DECIDED TO SUSPEND FERRYBOAT SERVICE
UNTIL QUESTION RESOLVED.
2. TURKISH PRESS MAY 19 CARRIED REPORT ALLEGING GOG HAD CLOSED ALL
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DODECANESE ISLAND PORTS TO TURKISH FLAG VESSELS. THIS REPORT SAYS

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SOME ISLANDS HAVE BEEN INACCESSIBLE TO TURKISH FLAG VESSELS SINCE LAST SUMMER BUT OTHERS WERE CLOSED ONLY LAST WEEK. IN TELEPHONE CONVERSATION MAY 19 GOVERNOR OF MUGLA PROVINCE (OFF COAST OF WHICH DODECANESE LIE) TOLD US TURKISH VESSELS ARE PERMITTED TO CALL AT DODECANESE PORTS BUT AS OF THREE WEEKS AGO WERE FORBIDDEN BY GREEK AUTHORITIES TO EMBARK OR DISEMBARK PASSENGERS. REASON FOR THIS ACTION IS NOT KNOWN.
3. COMMENT: TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, BASED ON CONVERSATIONS WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS AND TOURISM INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES, THERE ARE AT THIS TIME NO FERRYBOATS OPERATING REGULARLY BETWEEN TURKEY AND GREEK ISLANDS. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT THIS IS RESULT OF CONSCIOUS GOT OR GOG POLICY. HOWEVER, SINCE LOCAL TOURISM INTERESTS ARE EXTREMELY ANXIOUS TO RESUME NORMAL OPERATIONS, IT IS UNLIKELY CURRENT

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SUSPENSION ENTIRELY RESULT OF LOCAL DECISIONS.
SMITH

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